

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Lowell Correctional Institution  
3           Body Cameras Pilot Program; creating s. 944.145, F.S.;  
4           creating the Lowell Correctional Institution Body  
5           Cameras Pilot Program within the Department of  
6           Corrections; providing the purpose of the pilot  
7           program; defining terms; requiring that each  
8           correctional officer working at the Lowell  
9           Correctional Institution wear a body camera while  
10          acting within the scope of his or her official duties;  
11          requiring the department to establish policies and  
12          procedures for the proper use, maintenance, and  
13          storage of such body cameras and data recorded by such  
14          body cameras; providing minimum requirements for such  
15          policies and procedures; requiring the department to  
16          provide training for the wear, use, maintenance, and  
17          storage of body cameras; requiring the audio and video  
18          data recorded by such cameras to be maintained in  
19          accordance with public records laws; requiring the  
20          department to submit annual reports beginning on a  
21          certain date; providing report requirements; providing  
22          for expiration of the pilot program; providing an  
23          effective date.

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25   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Section 944.145, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

944.145 Lowell Correctional Institution Body Cameras Pilot Program.—

(1) The Lowell Correctional Institution Body Cameras Pilot Program is created within the department for 3 years. The purpose of the pilot program is to ensure safety and provide accountability for each person in the institution.

(2) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Body camera" means a portable electronic recording device that is worn on a correctional officer's person and that records audio and video data of the officer's prisoner-related encounters and activities.

(b) "Correctional officer" has the same meaning as in s. 943.10(2).

(3) Each correctional officer working at the Lowell Correctional Institution shall wear a body camera while acting within the scope of his or her official duties. The department shall establish policies and procedures addressing the proper use, maintenance, and storage of such body cameras and the data recorded by such body cameras. The policies and procedures must, at a minimum, include all of the following:

(a) General guidelines for the proper use, maintenance, and storage of body cameras.

51 (b) Any limitations on a correctional officer's use of the  
52 body cameras.

53 (c) Any limitations on prisoner-related encounters and  
54 activities in which correctional officers are authorized to wear  
55 body cameras.

56 (d) A provision allowing a correctional officer using a  
57 body camera to review the recorded footage from the body camera,  
58 upon his or her own initiative or request, before writing a  
59 report or providing a statement regarding any event arising  
60 within the scope of his or her official duties. Any such  
61 provision may not apply to an officer's inherent duty to  
62 immediately disclose information necessary to secure an active  
63 crime scene or to identify suspects or witnesses.

64 (e) General guidelines for the proper storage, retention,  
65 and release of audio and video data recorded by body cameras.

66 (4) The department shall:

67 (a) Ensure that all personnel at the Lowell Correctional  
68 Institution who wear, use, maintain, or store body cameras are  
69 trained in the department's policies and procedures concerning  
70 the body cameras.

71 (b) Ensure that all personnel at the Lowell Correctional  
72 Institution who use, maintain, store, or release audio or video  
73 data recorded by body cameras are trained in the department's  
74 policies and procedures.

75 (c) Retain audio and video data recorded by body cameras

76 | in accordance with the requirements of s. 119.021, except as  
77 | otherwise provided by law.

78 | (d) Perform a periodic review of actual agency body camera  
79 | practices to ensure conformity with the agency's policies and  
80 | procedures.

81 | (5) Beginning on June 30, 2022, and annually thereafter,  
82 | the department shall submit a report to the Governor, the  
83 | President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the  
84 | Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader  
85 | of the House of Representatives on the operation of the program  
86 | during the previous year. The report must include, at a minimum,  
87 | findings based on the review of incidents at the Lowell  
88 | Correctional Institution and the helpfulness of the body cameras  
89 | worn by corrections officers, proposals on changes to existing  
90 | policies and procedures, and any other information that the  
91 | department deems important in furthering the purpose of the  
92 | pilot program.

93 | (6) This section expires June 30, 2024.

94 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.